

this month the legendary restaurateur Joe Tecce passed away, and with his death at age 94 a colorful chapter of Boston's history came to a close.

Joe's journey in the hospitality business started with a pushcart selling fruit on the North End's Salem Street at age 14, and due to his father's death years earlier, that job would constitute much of the family income. His trademark perseverance and business sense allowed him to open the Bella Napoli pizzeria in 1947. This 30 seat restaurant would host the first of countless guests, from all walks of life and from all over the world, who would make an evening special by sitting at one of Joe's coveted tables.

Once formally established on North Washington Street, Joe Tecce's Ristorante, or what regulars simply called "Tecce's", became a favorite of Bostonians, tourists from around the world, and celebrities of every stripe for more than 40 years. His reputation grew as his business and family did, and for Joe the two were almost inseparable. In addition to his traditional culinary skills, Joe became a host of such generosity and grace that he became an ambassador for the city itself. Standing at the door of Tecce's, often with his trademark wide-brimmed felt hat, Joe would greet everyone from Elizabeth Taylor and Nancy Reagan, to Frank Sinatra and Al Pacino, as well as luminaries from the worlds of sports such as Bobby Orr, Reggie Jackson and Larry Bird. His love of boxing not only attracted Rocky Marciano and Marvin Hagler to visit, it actually resulted in Joe being named to the Boxing Commission by then-Governor Ed King.

To walk into Tecce's was to walk into his home, and as you took your seat you could look around and see generations of Joe's family, sons and cousins, pushing forward the legacy he started with his fruit cart over 60 years earlier. For me and my family, no trip to the Boston Garden for a Celtics or Bruins game would be complete without starting the evening at Tecce's, and over the many years I knew Joe it became customary for my friends to gather there before a political event or a night at the theater.

Joe Tecce loved his family, his neighbors, and the North End and its traditions. But it was with his restaurant that he wove together all three and throughout the course of his career they became one. His legacy of generosity and hospitality leaves the city of Boston a better place, and it is with a heavy heart that I join his countless friends and beloved family in honoring his time with us.●

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER MARK S. HOCHBERG

● Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize CDR Mark S. Hochberg on his retirement from 20 years of faithful and dedicated service to the U.S. Navy.

Throughout his career as a Seabee and civil engineer, he has made count-

less contributions to our Navy and Nation that improved the Navy's readiness and bettered the lives of its men and women. I want to thank him for his service and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.●

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 2487. A bill to ensure an abundant and affordable supply of highly nutritious fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops for American consumers and international markets by enhancing the competitiveness of United States-grown specialty crops; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. Res. 416. A resolution recognizing the victims of Hurricane Rita 6 months after the disaster, commending the resiliency of the people of Southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas, and committing to stand by them in their relief and rebuilding efforts; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. FRIST, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. SUNUNU, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. BURNS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. GREGG, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. Res. 417. A resolution honoring the National Association of State Veterans Homes and the 119 State veterans homes providing long-term care to veterans that are represented by that association for their contributions to the health care of veterans and the health-care system of the Nation; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BURR, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. CONRAD, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 418. A resolution designating the week beginning April 2, 2006, as "Week of the Young Child"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 419. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the new United Nations Human Rights Council fails to adequately reform the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, thus preventing that body from becoming an effective monitor of human rights throughout the world; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 484

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 718

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 718, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide standards and procedures to guide both State and local law enforcement agencies and law enforcement officers during internal investigations, interrogation of law enforcement officers, and administrative disciplinary hearings, and to ensure accountability of law enforcement officers, to guarantee the due process rights of law enforcement officers, and to require States to enact law enforcement discipline, accountability, and due process laws.

S. 722

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 722, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level.

S. 1112

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1112, a bill to make permanent the enhanced educational savings provisions for qualified tuition programs enacted as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

S. 1728

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1728, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the Indian employment credit and the depreciation rules for property used predominantly within an Indian reservation.

S. 2135

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2135, a bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to report to Congress concerning proposed changes to longstanding policies that prohibit foreign interests from exercising actual control over the economic, competitive, safety, and security decisions of United States airlines, and for other purposes.

S. 2296

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2296, a bill to establish a fact-finding Commission to extend the

study of a prior Commission to investigate and determine facts and circumstances surrounding the relocation, internment, and deportation to Axis countries of Latin Americans of Japanese descent from December 1941 through February 1948, and the impact of those actions by the United States, and to recommend appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

S. 2429

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2429, a bill to authorize the President to waive the application of certain requirements under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 with respect to India.

S. 2433

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2433, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an Assistant Secretary for Rural Veterans in the Department of Veterans Affairs, to improve the care provided to veterans living in rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 2467

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2467, a bill to enhance and improve the trade relations of the United States by strengthening United States trade enforcement efforts and encouraging United States trading partners to adhere to the rules and norms of international trade, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 84

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 84, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding a free trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan.

AMENDMENT NO. 3210

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3210 proposed to S. 2454, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for comprehensive reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3212

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3212 intended to be proposed to S. 2454, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for comprehensive reform and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 2487. A bill to ensure an abundant and affordable supply of highly nutritious fruits, vegetables, and other specialty crops for American consumers and international markets by enhancing the competitiveness of United States-grown specialty crops; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the "Specialty Crop Competition Act of 2006." This bipartisan legislation co-sponsored by the distinguished Senator from Michigan, Senator STABENOW, increases the focus on the contribution that specialty crops add to the U.S. agricultural economy. This bill specifically provides the proper and necessary attention to many challenges faced throughout each segment of the industry.

Most do not realize the significance of specialty crops and their value to the U.S. economy and the health of U.S. citizens. According to the United States Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service, fruits and vegetables alone added \$29.9 billion to the U.S. economy in 2002. This figure does not even include the contribution of nursery and other ornamental plant production, which our bill recognizes.

The specialty crop industry also accounts for more than \$53 billion in cash receipts for U.S. producers, which is close to 54 percent of the total cash receipts for all crops. A surprising fact to some is that my State of Idaho is a top producer of specialty crops. Idaho proudly boasts production of cherries, table grapes, apples, onions, carrots, several varieties of seed crops and of course one of our most notable specialty crops, potatoes.

Maintaining a viable and sustainable specialty crop industry also benefits the health of America's citizens. Obesity continues to plague millions of people today and is a very serious and deepening threat not only to personal health and well-being, but to the resources of the economy as well. This issue is now receiving the necessary attention at the highest levels, and specialty crops will continue to play a prominent role in reversing the obesity trend.

The "Specialty Crop Competition Act" will also provide a stronger position for the U.S. industry in the global market arena. This legislation promotes initiatives that will combat diseases both native and foreign that continue to be used as non-tariff barriers to U.S. exports by foreign governments. Additionally, provisions in this bill seek improvements to federal regulations and resources that impede timely consideration of industry sanitary and phytosanitary petitions.

This bill does not provide direct subsidies to producers like other programs. This legislation takes a major step forward to highlight the significance of this industry to the agriculture economy, the benefits to the health of U.S. citizens, and the need for a stable, affordable, diverse, and secure supply of food.

Although we near the end of the 109th Congress, I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Administration to consider this comprehensive and necessary legislation as we begin to discuss new initiatives for the 2007 Farm Bill.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleague from Idaho, Senator CRAIG, in introducing the Specialty Crops Competition Act of 2006. I want to thank Senator CRAIG for his continued leadership on specialty crop issues. We have worked together for a number of years on legislation to promote American fruit and vegetable production and consumption of high quality, nutritious American-grown produce and this legislation is the next step in that process.

Michigan is a State that makes things and grows things. We are famous for our automobiles, and we are also known for our cherries, apples, blueberries, and asparagus. I am proud to represent a State that is rich in diverse agricultural production. In fact, Michigan is second only to California in the variety of crops that we grow. Furthermore, agriculture is one of the lynchpins of Michigan's economy. Our farms contribute \$37 billion annually to the State economy and provide more than half a million good jobs. Our specialty crops alone generate nearly \$1.3 billion every year.

For far too long, specialty crops have been ignored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Specialty crops account for 51 percent of total national farm receipts but they do not receive the same subsidies or USDA consideration as program crops.

I want to clarify that the Craig-Stabenow bill is in no way designed to take funding away from program crops, but rather to bring specialty crops up to the status of program crops. All of our farmers work hard and take a gamble every year to produce and receive a return on their crops. They gamble against heat, drought, frost, storms, pests, crop diseases, and most recently a flood of foreign produce to our markets. The Specialty Crops Competition Act of 2006 would give specialty crop farmers valuable tools to keep them competitive and productive in a global marketplace.

Our bill creates a specialty crop block grant to State departments of agriculture at a level of \$200 million annually in grants for fiscal years 2007–2009. The grants will support production-related research, commodity production, nutrition, food safety and inspection and other competitiveness enhancing programs. Each State will receive a minimum of \$3 million each year, and a cap of \$15 million annually per State is set to ensure funds for a competitive grant program, for which grower associations and others can apply. Our bill also fixes a longstanding misinterpretation of the Tree Assistance Program by ensuring that farmers who have lost trees and vines due to disasters or disease are eligible